

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 02874 190753Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 SY-05 MCT-01 ACDA-12 COME-00
AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /118 W
-----033710 191925Z /45

R 181415Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1245
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY MASERU
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, SF
SUBJECT: SAG REVEALS TERRORIST FIGURES

REFERENCE: PRETORIA 2428

1. ACCORDING TO BRIEF ITEM IN MAY 13 RAND DAILY MAIL,
MINISTER OF JUSTICE JIMMY KRUGER NOTED THAT 66 "TERRORISM
CASES" ARE NOW IN PROGRESS BEFORE THE COURTS AND THAT NEARLY
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1,000 PEOPLE ARE BEING HELD IN CONNECTION WITH TERRORISM
ACT CASES. OF THOSE PEOPLE ARRESTED OR DETAINED, KRUGER
SAID THAT 91 ARE "TRAINED TERRORISTS", 594 ARE "UN-
TRAINED TERRORISTS", 168 ARE BEING HELD UNDER SECTION 6
OF THE TERRORISM ACT, 5 UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE TERRORISM
ACT, AND 111 ARE BEING HELD AS STATE WITNESSES FOR
TERRORISM ACT CASES. KRUGER ALSO REFERRED TO 31 CASES

OF SABOTAGE WHICH RESULTED IN SIX DEATHS AND 41 INJURIES.

2. COMMENT: KRUGER PROBABLY GAVE HIS FIGURES TO PARLIAMENT DURING A FUNDING DEBATE FOR HIS DEPARTMENT. PRESS REPORT WAS UNCLEAR AS TO WHAT TIME FRAME THE MINISTER HAD IN MIND WHEN NOTING THE 31 CASES OF SABOTAGE AND WHETHER "TERRORISM CASES" MEANT ONLY CASES TRIED UNDER THE TERRORISM ACT. IN A FUTILE ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN CLARIFICATION, EMBASSY CONTACTED OFFICIALS IN MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND COMMISSIONER OF POLICE WHO EITHER DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF REPORT OR REFUSED TO COMMENT ON IT.

3. IN LIGHT OF PAST PRONOUNCEMENTS, KRUGER'S "UNTRAINED TERRORISTS" PROBABLY ARE SOUTH AFRICANS CAUGHT TRYING TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY FOR MILITARY TRAINING AND THE "TRAINED TERRORISTS" MOST LIKELY ARE THOSE CAUGHT UPON RETURN (SEE REFTEL). KRUGER'S REFERENCE TO 66 "TERRORISM CASES", WHETHER INCLUDING INTERNAL SECURITY ACT TRIALS OR NOT, REFLECTS THE FACT THAT THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF SECURITY TRIALS AND INCIDENTS ARE NOT BEING REPORTED IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS.

4. DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT.
NELSON

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NNN

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